

Public Works (1899) Department.

✓ G.O., No. 1400 W

DATED ^{18th} June 1899

HT 2/16/99

[Despatch Abstract.]

Lake Reclamation Project
at Ootacamund ~~off~~ Lake

Stating that the Govt. has perused, with satisfaction, the report on the completion of the ——— and directing that the good services of the 1st Pioneers in connection with the project be brought to the notice of the Lieutenant General Commanding the Forces.

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B

Probably

Stating that the Government has perused, with satisfaction, the report on the completion of the —, and directing that the good services of the IV Pioneers in connection with the project be brought to the notice of the Lieutenant-General Commanding the Forces.

Buildings and Roads.
Civil Works.

REPORT on the completion of the filling in of the Ootacamund Upper Lake.

The work was practically completed on 31st March 1899, though, owing to various reasons, there remained a few small pieces of work to be done which will cost some Rs. 500, bringing the total expenditure to Rs. 2,01,830, or about Rs. 2,700 in excess of the estimate. This excess is covered by No. 4191 C., Public Works Department, of 23rd September 1898.

2. Reasons for savings and excesses on the various sub-heads of the estimates are given in the completion report, but broadly speaking considerably more money has been spent on (a) filling up depressions in the reclaimed portion which have repeatedly occurred, and (b) altering the upper road and improving it with its drainage owing to heavy land slips in the steep slope.

3. It will no doubt be necessary, for some years to come, to fill up depressions as they occur in order to make the reclaimed ground healthy and useful. After the ground has thoroughly settled, the centre portion will have to be drained. A small portion near the Hobart school has been so drained with 2" pipes 20' 0" apart, and this land, which was previously a bog, is now sound ground.

4. The permanent level of the lower lake has been lowered by order of Government 1' 6", and I think the most conservative today cannot say it has spoilt the appearance of the lake. I would strongly urge that in a year's time the lake be lowered another 1' 0" or 1' 6", the main stream deepened and the Hobart Park and upper portion of the reclaimed ground well drained. These cannot be effectively done unless the lake is lowered, and I am convinced the ground will never be really a healthy recreation ground until the sub-soil water is lowered.

5. The completion of this work at the time is chiefly due to the assistance of the IV Pioneers who worked on this and other works from beginning of July 1897 to 1st October 1898.

6. It is impossible for me to exaggerate the good work this regiment did and the excellent effect this imported labour had on the local labour in Ootacamund.

7. With the exception of some Rs. 1,500 spent on making the old jail suitable for their barracks, the men worked at the same rates as those given to the local labour, and they certainly did all the most difficult work.

8. I venture to request that the services of this regiment at Ootacamund may be brought to the special notice of Government.

9. My particular thanks are due to Major Stevens, the Commanding Officer for the greater part of the time, and to Captain Holloway who commanded for the remaining time, also to Captain Swan, Lieutenants Rice and Watson. To the ready co-operation and kindly tact and keenness displayed by these officers and ever ready assistance rendered by the remaining officers, both European and Native, I ascribe the success which undoubtedly attended this experiment of the employment of military labour under a Civil Engineer. Under similar circumstances, the IV Pioneers are the first lot of men I shall apply for, and I feel proud to think they will readily come to me.

10. In addition to the above-named officers, I beg to bring prominently to notice the services rendered by Subadar-Major Muhammad Sullar. I feel sure Major Stevens will not object to my describing him as the backbone of the regiment as far as work is concerned. His slightest wish was law with the men on the work, and it is no exaggeration to say that he was always on the work and that where he was good work was done. I can give him no better praise than to express my wish that we had a few men of his calibre in the Public Works Department.

11. In addition to the lake work, the men were employed on laying main sewer, altering the iron pipe sewer through the upper lake, building works, road work. Some of these works were far from easy or pleasant, and there was never a grumble heard.

12. I append a note by the Commanding Officer, IV Pioneers. The regiment was treated absolutely on the piece-work system, and from a Public Works Department point of view this is, I think, the only system that should be employed. Tasks must be set daily and carefully checked. This is not difficult as there is lot of superintendence available in the regiment. From the Public Works Department view also volunteering is the better plan, as it ensures an anxiety to put the men on the work.

(Signed) J. F. SOMERS-EVE,
Executive Engineer.

26th April 1899.

No. 268/W.

Copy submitted to the Chief Engineer, Public Works Department.

The difficulties attending the execution of large works on the hills have been most successfully overcome by the employment of the IV Pioneers, whose cordial co-operation has enabled Mr. Eve to complete the filling in of the lake in a very satisfactory manner.

CAMP OOTACAMUND,
14th May 1899.

(Signed) A. H. GARRETT,
Suptg. Engineer, IV Circle.

ORDER—No. 1400 W., dated 1st June 1899.

Government has perused this report with satisfaction.

2. The good services of the IV Pioneers, in connection with the Lake Reclamation Project at Ootacamund, will be brought to the notice of the Lieutenant-General Commanding the Forces.

(True Extract.)

Under Secretary to Government.

To the Superintending Engineer, IV Circle.

” Deputy Adjutant-General, Madras Command,
for the information of the Lieutenant-General
Commanding the Forces.

Local and Municipal Department, for communication
to the Chairman, Municipal Council, Ootacamund.

„ Major Stevens, Commanding TV Pioneers, Tschinopoly

Exd. Md. Pahlwan.

Read the following:—

From the Suptg. Engr., IV Circle, No $\frac{268}{W}$ of 14.5.99

Circulated to H.E. the Governor

ORDER. No: 1400 W of 1.6.99

25.5.99

Govt. has perused this report with satisfaction. The ^{good} ~~excellent~~ service of the IV Pioneers, in connection with the Lake Reclamation Project at Otacamund, be brought to the notice of the Lieutenant-General commanding the Forces.

APK
25.5.99.

W. H. B. 25.5.99

To
The Suptg. Engr., IV Circle
" Dy. Adjutant General,
Madras Command, for the
information of the Lieut.
Genl. commanding the Forces.

" Local & Muzopl. Dept. for
communication to the Chairman,
IV Pioneers, Triching-ly

in mch. Comd. Otacamund, X
P. W. 42-A.
4000-2-3-99
25.5.99

Public Works (1897) Department.

CURRENT No. 4003

From The Supty. Engineer,
4th Circle.

No. 268
W

Dated 14th May 1899

Received 19.5.99

Registered

Enclosures ✓

Spare copies. ✓

SUBJECT.

Ootacamund Upper Lake.
Submits Mr. Lowers' report,
passing his opinion on the
completion of the filling in of
the —

Order

4191 C 298

11/6
02.5/38 #225/5-

SKW / 937665-50612/98

FURTHER PAPERS.

Estimate Rupees 199/40

The work was practically completed on March 31st 1899 though owing to various reasons there remained a few small pieces of work to be done which will cost some Rs 500, bringing the total expenditure to Rs 201830, or about Rs 2700 in excess of the estimate.

This excess is covered by no. 4191 C D. Pr. of 23 $\frac{9}{98}$

2. Reasons for Savings and excesses on the various Subheads of the estimates are given in the Completion Report, but broadly speaking considerably more money has been spent on (a) filling up depressions in the reclaimed portion which have repeatedly occurred, and (b) altering the upper road and improving it with its drainage owing to heavy land slips in the steep slope.

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5. The completion of this work at the time is chiefly due to the assistance of the TV Pioneers who worked on this and other works from beginning of July 1897 to Oct. 15th 1898.

6. It is impossible for me to exaggerate the good work this regiment did and the excellent effect this imported labour had on the local labour in Ootacamund.

7. With the exception of some Rs 1500 spent on making the old jail suitable.

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suitable for their barracks, the men worked at the same rates as those given to the local labour, and they certainly did all the most difficult work.

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Stevens

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(Signed) J. F. Somers Eve
Executive Engineer
26.4.29.

No.

Camp Ostacammund
No. 268
Dated 14.5.1899.
Copy Submitted to the Chief Engineer
Public Works Department

The difficulties attending the execution of large works on the Hills have been most successfully overcome by the employment of the 4th Pioneers whose cordial cooperation has enabled Mr. Eve to complete the filling in of the lake in a very satisfactory manner.

Andrew
Supt Engineer IV Circle